



# News Release

**Information Technology Resource Management Council**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RECEIVE ITRMC TECHNOLOGY AWARDS**

BOISE, ID – In a collaborative effort to recognize government's effective use of information technology to improve services to citizens, six agencies were formally recognized today for their innovation by the State of Idaho.

The projects ranged from an electronic pay stub program for state employees which also allows visually impaired employees for the first time to access their pay stubs online using an audible screen reading interface; to an application making it possible for online filing of continued unemployment benefits by Idaho citizens.

The Information Technology Achievement Awards were presented by the Information Technology Resource Management Council, (ITRMC) at an award luncheon held Tuesday, (Oct. 8) as part of its annual 2002 Digital Government 'Boot Camp' for Idaho Policy Makers at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

"These awards recognize and celebrate the excellent work by state and local government agencies in making it easier for Idaho citizens to get the information and services they need either online or through integrated processes," commented Rich Elwood, Statewide IT Coordinator for the ITRMC.

He explained the outstanding projects effectively use technology to contain costs, several of them building upon systems already in place. Like other states, Idaho is faced with serious budget shortfalls, Elwood said, and "information technology is being used effectively to maximize the investments state agencies have already made."

Receiving awards in the following six categories were:

**Accessibility:** The State Controllers Office for its electronic pay stub program for State employees. Through single user identification and password entry, employees are provided confidential and secure access to view their paychecks online, saving thousands of dollars in paper payroll processing.

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**Digital Government:** The Idaho Transportation Department for its online Court Access to Driver License Records via the Internet, allowing citizens to conduct business 24 hours per day, seven days a week with the Division of Motor Vehicles. Through the state's web portal, Access Idaho, drivers license records requests are made available online to government, qualified business entities, and drivers.

**Information Architecture:** The State of Idaho Division of Human Resources and Department of Labor for their joint project resulting in a new Applicant Tracking System simplifying the employee recruiting process for the State. The electronic process eliminates paper and cuts days from the hand scoring, copying, filing and distribution process formerly used. Applicants create and submit an electronic application, submit any test material and send resumes instantly at any time from any location.

**Innovative Use of Technology:** The Board of Examiners on-line application where other agencies, city, county, school districts or other public entity groups can acquire state-owned surplus property. To notify others about available surplus property in the past, agencies submitted 90 copies of a declaration to the Board where upon the Board distributed this as a notice to most state agencies. A process, which normally took three weeks, can now be done electronically, is paperless and is immediately accessible.

**Public Private Partnership:** Office of the State Controller for its Electronic W-2 Download program for State Employees. Idaho State employees were the first in the nation with the ability to receive an electronic version of their W-2 information that could be imported into TurboTax for the 2001 tax-filing season.

**Service Applications :** The Department of Labor and its Internet Continued Claims System where unemployed workers can use the Internet to contact the state office to certify they are eligible for another week of benefits by filing a continuing claim online. For several years, claimants were required to use a telephone calling system, with out-of-town claimants incurring long distance charges.

Presenting the awards was Roger Parks, private sector representative for the ITRMC and Chief Information Officer for J.R. Simplot, and Pam Ahrens, Acting Chief of Staff for Governor Dirk Kempthorne. An Award Review Committee of private business and industry representatives selected the recipients from 18 nominations.